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# Economic and Social Council

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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
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7 June-2 July 2004
Agenda item 8
**Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fourth session**

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## Draft report

**Addendum**

## United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

*(Item 4 (b))*

1. At its 4th meeting, on 8 June 2004, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System Support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2004/6).

2. The Director of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report. The Committee decided to convene an informal consultation on Thursday, 10 June, at which it would examine issues requiring further clarification.

**Discussion**

3. Much appreciation was expressed for the comprehensive nature of the report, particularly for the way in which it clearly highlighted progress made by individual agencies in supporting the priorities of NEPAD, as well as continuing challenges and constraints they faced in providing more support.

4. There was also appreciation for the fact that the United Nations system had organized its activity around the six thematic clusters that corresponded to the priorities of NEPAD. Note was taken of the fact that the nature and scope of support by the United Nations system had become broader and deeper. The role of the United Nations system in supporting the NEPAD secretariat and the regional

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economic communities in policy development, programme formulation, capacity-building and institutional development was widely noted. Emphasis was also placed on the issue of coordination within the United Nations system at the global, regional, subregional and national levels as a means of deepening support to NEPAD.

5. The assignment of agencies as conveners for individual clusters was acknowledged as a positive development and individual agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, were commended for their cluster leadership. The Committee urged agencies to collaborate more closely. It was suggested, for example, that such agencies as the World Intellectual Property Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization needed to work closely in supporting the development of Africa through mobilizing industrial and intellectual resources for Africa's development. At the same time, it was emphasized that, under the sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post-conflict recovery, the inter-agency assessment team should address needs and gaps at an early stage, rather than resort to emergency measures when gaps in the humanitarian situation became critical. It was suggested that the lessons should be drawn from the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea Bissau and Burundi for the work of the sub-cluster on humanitarian affairs and post-conflict recovery.

6. The view was expressed that the momentum gained since the consideration of the previous report of the Secretary-General on NEPAD (E/AC.51/2003/6) with regard to efforts at NEPAD coordination should be enhanced and strengthened, particularly with a view to achieving a higher level of support and coherence within the six priority areas identified under NEPAD. Outreach and support should be channelled through all existing and appropriate mechanisms of the United Nations system to individual African countries. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa was urged to increase its participation in available mechanisms, particularly the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and regional consultation mechanisms as well as policy interface with other agencies. It was widely acknowledged that NEPAD represented a new model for development that affirmed that the primary responsibility of Governments in their national development. The success of NEPAD would hold many lessons for other developing countries around the world. The importance of increased South-South cooperation for the implementation of NEPAD was emphasized. African countries were, therefore, urged to take advantage of South-South cooperation with other developing countries in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean countries to advance their development.

7. The important role that the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) had played in supporting the NEPAD secretariat and in the implementation of the various programmes of NEPAD was also acknowledged. Questions were, nonetheless, raised concerning the division of tasks between ECA and the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa in supporting the implementation of NEPAD. It was clarified that, in addition to convening the cluster on infrastructure and providing assistance on a range of NEPAD priorities, ECA coordinated the United Nations system at the regional level using the vehicle of the regional consultations meeting of United Nations bodies working in Africa. The Office, on the other hand, prepared reports on the implementation of NEPAD to intergovernmental bodies at the global level, undertook global advocacy in support of NEPAD and provided technical

support to the Secretary-General in coordinating the work of the United Nations system at the global level.

8. The view was expressed that investment in development and the eradication of poverty in Africa would support stability and security on the continent. The huge investments in peacekeeping and peace-building currently needed to stabilize Africa could be reduced significantly if the economic root causes of marginalization and poverty were addressed through development.

9. Financial resource mobilization is the key to the successful implementation of NEPAD. However, the efforts of African countries have been constrained by a myriad of factors, including a huge external debt burden, falling commodity prices and capital flight from the region. The agencies of the United Nations system can play an important role in supporting resource mobilization for Africa, in particular the implementation of NEPAD. It was stressed that the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa needed to increase its efforts in its global advocacy work to mobilize financial resources for Africa.

10. While the conclusions and recommendations of the report were generally welcomed, clarifications were sought regarding the implications of paragraph 72 (c), which proposed that "additional resources should be made available to the system to better support NEPAD". Clarifications were provided to the effect that those proposals stemmed from the recognition that many agencies had reported the lack of adequate resources as a constraint to providing more support to the programmes of NEPAD. It was also emphasized that the additional resources required were related to the needs of the agencies and organizations of the entire United Nations system and not for the particular entity.

11. Concerning governance, peace and security, particularly the first sub-cluster on humanitarian response and post conflict recovery, one delegation emphasized the need to continue to strengthen comprehensive and seamless support for the purposes of the consolidation of peace, from humanitarian assistance to reconstruction assistance through effective and efficient coordination among relevant international organizations and agencies.

12. Concerning the sub-cluster on political, economic and corporate governance, support was expressed for United Nations support for the African peer review mechanism in order to further promote social and economic reconstruction based on democracy and good governance.

13. Concerning a "more generous and innovative international financing scheme", the view was expressed that making the best use of the existing schemes of international development financing agencies must be the first priority, even if it seemed like a revolutionary approach.

14. Some delegations requested clarification of paragraph 72 (c) of the report since the recommendation seemed to be too generic and vague, and the delegation did not consider it adequate for the Committee to make recommendations on matters related to resources.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

15. **The Committee took note and welcomed with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/AC.51/2004/6).**

16. **The Committee welcomed the fact that the United Nations system had organized its activity around the six thematic clusters that responded to the priorities of NEPAD, noting that coordination within the United Nations system at the global, regional, subregional and national levels should be strengthened as a means of deepening support for NEPAD.**

17. **The Committee welcomed the ongoing cooperation among agencies and urged them to collaborate more closely. The Committee noted that the lessons learned from the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Groups on Guinea Bissau and Burundi should guide the inter-agency team in its work of the sub-clusters.**

18. **The Committee emphasized the role of the Special Adviser in leading coordination at the global level for support for NEPAD, and called on the United Nations system to cooperate fully with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.**

19. **The Committee urged that the United Nations system, in particular CEB, should sustain the momentum generated by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa in the coordination of support for NEPAD.**

20. **The Committee called for a sustained drive to engage partners to support NEPAD, including in a South-South context.**

21. **The Committee recommended that:**

(a) **The United Nations system use the existing coordination mechanisms at the global, regional and country levels to strengthen policy coherence in support of NEPAD;**

(b) **United Nations entities further deepen their collaboration and develop the necessary tools in order to achieve operational coherence and impact of their various programmes in support of NEPAD;**

(c) **United Nations entities mobilize sufficient resources to fund activities in support of NEPAD.**

22. **The Committee further recommended that, in order for it to continue monitoring work in progress in support of NEPAD, the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-fifth session on the further future engagement of the United Nations system with NEPAD.**